

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 02245

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MPOL
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES - ASSESSMENT OF TASK
FORCE 3 (RESERVE MOBILIZATION) FINAL REPORT

REF: USNATO 927 DTG 271922Z JAN 78

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PRESENTS USNATO'S ASSESSMENT OF THE
TASK FORCE 3 (TF 3) REPORT AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO
US POSITIONS ON THE PROGRAMS PROPOSED. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL: WE SEE THE TF 3 REPORT AS A GOOD START,
GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TASK UNDERTAKEN AND THE LIMITED
TIME AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW, THE QUALITY OF THE
EFFORT DROPS OFF RAPIDLY WHEN THE TF GETS INTO MATTERS
INVOLVING REAL EXPENDITURES.

2. SPECIFIC PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

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. A. "MOM AND APPLE PIE" - SERIALS 1 THROUGH 6, 9 AND
10 (SEE TF 3 REPORT FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS): WE SEE A
DEGREE OF COMMITMENT TO ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS CORRESPONDING
GENERALLY TO CATEGORY I, AS DEFINED IN REFTL. AS COMPE-
TITION FOR SCARCE RESOURCES IS NOT A FACTOR HERE, WE WOULD
RECOMMEND ALL FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION.

. B. "MEAT AND POTATOES" - SERIAL 7 (TO ENSURE THAT NATO-ALLOCATED RESERVISTS AND RESERVE UNITS ARE TRAINED FOR MODERN WAR CONDITIONS...), SERIAL 8 (TO EQUIP ADEQUATELY FOR THEIR WAR ROLE THE NATO-ALLOCATED RESERVES), AND SERIAL 11 (TO BETTER UTILIZE SOME OF THE RESERVE MANPOWER SO THAT ADEQUATE NATO-ALLOCATED RESERVES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE WARSAW PACT THREAT AND TO OBTAIN THE NEED FOR EARLY RECOURSE TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS):

. (1) WE FLAG: (A) THE SCOPE OF TF 3'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CREATION OF "ADDITIONAL NATO RESERVE COMBAT FORMATIONS TO HELP HOLD THE GROUND PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS", I.E., RECOMMENDING SOMETHING LESS THAN ELEVEN BRIGADES TO BE FORMED IN THE 1985-1990 TIME FRAME OUT OF A PRESENTLY EXISTING POOL OF ALMOST FOUR MILLION UNCOMMITTED RESERVISTS AND (B) THE PRIORITY ASSIGNED, I.E., THIRD (AND LOWEST).

. (2) WE QUESTION WHETHER THIS SCOPE AND THIS PRIORITY WOULD SATISFY US EXPECTATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EUROPEAN RESERVE FORCES AND BELIEVE THAT THE EUROPEANS SHOULD BE ASKED TO RAISE THEIR SIGHTS. FURTHERMORE, WE DO NOT SEE TF 3'S PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS AS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE THE NECESSARY QUID FOR PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL U.S. CORPS FOR RAPID REINFORCEMENT OF ACE.
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. (3) WE SUSPECT THAT TF 3'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO ADDITIONAL COMBAT FORMATIONS WERE MOST PROBABLY BASED ON A FEELING THAT AN ADDITIONAL RESERVE FORMATION BRIGADE PER NATIONAL CORPS WAS ALL THE TRAFFIC COULD BEAR IN THE TIME THE TF HAD TO NEGOTIATE.

. (4) ALSO, DURING THE COURSE OF THE STUDY, THE TF DIRECTOR HAS INDICATED THAT HE IS WARY OF CERTAIN NATIONS (E.G., NORWAY, DENMARK, AND THE NETHERLANDS) SEIZING UPON THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL RESERVE COMBAT FORMATIONS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE THEIR REGULAR FORCES TO EVEN LOWER LEVELS AND ACCORDINGLY HAS APPARENTLY PLACED HIS PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON THE RAPID MOBILIZATION OF RESERVES TO ROUND OUT REGULAR UNITS.

. (5) WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION, THE TF RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SERIAL 11 ARE INADEQUATE, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US INSIST THAT THE EUROPEANS BE CONSIDERABLY MORE FORTHCOMING AS A QUID FOR DEDICATION OF AN ADDITIONAL US CORPS FOR ACE RAPID REINFORCEMENT WITH PRIORITY OF EMPLOYMENT TO NORTHAG. (IN THIS REGARD, THE US MIGHT CONSIDER

TRANSFERRING EQUIPMENT FROM US RESERVE UNITS FAR DOWN ON THE TROOP DEPLOYMENT LIST TO EUROPEAN RESERVE FORMATIONS WHICH COULD BE BROUGHT INTO COMBAT IN THE EARLY HOURS OF HOSTILITIES.)

. (6) ALSO, THE TF HAS DESIGNATED MOST OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER SERIAL 7 AND ALL THOSE UNDER SERIAL 8 AS OF SECOND-HIGHEST PRIORITY WITH SERIAL 11 BEING GIVEN THIRD (AND LOWEST) PRIORITY. ALL OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ARE CONSIDERED "OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY".

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OUR QUARREL WITH THIS IS TWOFOLD. FIRSTLY, THERE IS NO COMPETITION FOR REAL RESOURCES EXCEPT AMONG SERIALS 7, 8, AND 11, AND REAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES REALLY NEED TO BE SET ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THESE THREE. SECONDLY, WE DO NOT AGREE THAT ALL RECOMMENDATIONS IN SERIALS 7 AND 8 SHOULD NECESSARILY TAKE PRIORITY OVER SERIAL 11, E.G., SHOULD NOT ADEQUATE RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED TO FORMATION OF SUFFICIENT RESERVE COMBAT FORMATIONS TO HOLD THE LINE THROUGH D15 BEFORE UPGRADING THE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT OF EXISTING RESERVE UNITS CONCERNED WITH LOGISTICS THROUGHPUT SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AFTER D15?

. (7) WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON SEEK A DEGREE OF COMMITMENT FOR SERIALS 7, 8, AND 11 CORRESPONDING GENERALLY TO CATEGORY II. WITHIN THIS CATEGORY, WE WOULD

RECOMMEND ASSIGNING CREATION OF NEW RESERVE COMBAT FORMATIONS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY, UPGRADING OF TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT IN EXISTING COMBAT FORMATIONS AS SECOND HIGHEST PRIORITY, AND UPGRADING OF OTHER RESERVE FORMATIONS, AS
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SELECTED BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AS THIRD HIGHEST PRIORITY.

3. RECOMMENDED US POSITION: WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT WASHINGTON TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE IN THE EWG IN DEALING WITH THIS PARTICULAR REPORT, CALLING FOR MINISTERS AND ALLIANCE LEADERS TO:

. A. COMMEND TF 3 FOR PRODUCING A REPORT WHICH REPRESENTS THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE AND COMPARABLE COMPILATION, DESCRIPTION AND INVENTORY OF NATO RESERVE ASSETS.

. B. COMMIT THEMSELVES TO IMPLEMENTING THE TF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION PROGRAM CONCERNING (1) IMPROVEMENT OF NATO AND NATIONAL PROCEDURES TO PROVIDE QUICKER AND MORE EFFECTIVE RESERVE MOBILIZATION AND (2) IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S STANDARDS TO INCREASE THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT.

. C. ENDORSE FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE RESERVE SITUATION BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES WITH A VIEW TOWARD FULLY REALIZING THE DETERRENT POTENTIAL OF NATO'S RESERVE MANPOWER BY (1) CREATING A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF NEW COMBAT FORMATIONS AND (2) EMPHASIZING THE UPGRADING OF THE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING STATUS OF EXISTING COMBAT FORMATIONS, BOTH AS MATTERS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. WE WOULD HOPE THIS EXAMINATION COULD BE READY FOR MINISTERIAL REVIEW BY THE SPRING 1978 MEETING.

4. RECAPITULATION:

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. TF SERIAL	RECOMMENDED CATEGORY
. 1	I
. 2	I
. 3	I

.	4	I
.	5	I
.	6	I
.	7	II
.	8	II
.	9	I
.	10	I
.	11	II

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